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American 'Tourists' Set Free

VIENNA (UPI) — Two Americans, one of whom said he entered the Soviet Union to gather notes to prove Russia was planning war, crossed the Iron Curtain border to freedom Wednesday after undergoing a secret Soviet military trial in which they admitted they were "not meritorial tourists."

THE TWO ARE Mark Kaminsky, 32, of Jefferson Township, N.J., and Harvey Bennett, 36, of Bath, Maine, who went to the Soviet Union in August as tourists. They disappeared and U.S. efforts to locate them were not successful until the Soviet Union announced last week they were being expelled as spies.

The pair turned up in Austria Monday following seven weeks of detention in Kiev and Uzhgorod in the Soviet Ukraine.

Kaminsky said he had pleaded guilty to a charge of "collecting material and conducting activities incompatible with those of a regular tourist." He said he was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment and then expelled.

BENNETT WAS held as a witness, but he denied reports by the official Soviet Tass news agency that he denounced Kaminsky before a military court which tried him on Sept. 12.

Kaminsky and the Northcraft Educational Fund in Philadelphia had granted him and Bennett each a \$2,000 scholarship to finance the trip.

Kaminsky had the planned ori-

ginally to tour the Soviet Union for five weeks to gather information for a book "to show that the Soviet Union continually talks about peace but is preparing for war."

He had notes and films for his

planned book when he and Bennett were picked up at Uzhgorod in late August.

"SINCE THEY had all my films and notes on military activities," he said, "it was obvious that I was not simply a tourist."

Kaminsky said his trial "was like all Soviet trials—guilty until proven innocent."

They were picked up when they tried to leave the Soviet Union at a point on the Czech border in an area which they thought was cleared, but later found was restricted.

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